

## Authorized access to FirstNet communications network, devices is key during development

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A recently released report that lays out 10 principles for a network access and credentialing strategy will be considered by the First Responder Network Authority as it plans development of a nationwide public safety communications network, an official with the group writes in a March 16 blog post.

Identity, credential and access management, commonly referred to as ICAM, is an "important consideration" for the planned broadband network, Mark Golaszewski, FirstNet's director of applications, [writes](#) in the post.

"Through ICAM, first responders are 'identity proofed' by their local agencies and issued credentials that verify their identity and provide access to the resources they need," he adds.

But there are several challenges unique to first responders.

For example, they share devices used by multiple people working different shifts or through mutual aid. ICAM will have to be highly dynamic since access to applications will be based on a user's role or involvement in an incident. Plus, FirstNet will have to consider ICAM for tens of thousands of public safety agencies, he adds.

That's where the report from the ICAM National Strategy Summit comes in. Last October, public safety and ICAM experts held the summit to discuss these issues and released the final report ( [pdf](#) ) in late January.

"Key principles include the creation of a federated ICAM strategy, the modularization and layering of policies, ease of use for first responders, and the importance of consistent

governance processes across diverse organizations," writes Golaszewski.

The report also recommends that FirstNet develop an ICAM roadmap, articulate its access requirements and test potential technologies with early builders.

The planned broadband network would address a decades-long problem that has plagued first responders – their inability to communicate with one another due to stand-alone systems and devices that are incompatible across many jurisdictions. The money has been raised through recent auctions of spectrum by the federal government.

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